

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East GermanySECURITY INFORMATION
REPORTTOPIC Military Information from the Dessau-Rosslau Area

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 15 October 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on 25 August 1953, a bridge of two-sectional open pontoons was being constructed near the water training site south of Rietzsch-Brambach, at Elbe kilometermark 269.5, while another bridge was being built near Apollensdorf, southeast of Griebow. About 100 trucks, occupied by troops and carrying engineer equipment, subsequently passed the firstmen 50X1-HUM from north to south. The column went to the bridge near Apollensdorf via Kuehnau-Dessau-Woerlitz. At about 8 p.m., some of the vehicles were seen returning to the water training site at Rosslau, coming from the direction of Coswig. Ten to 12 single-engine aircraft circled over the area during the bridge construction and the river crossing.¹

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2. Prior to 12 September, the water training sites southeast of Rosslau, south of Brambach, south of the flax mill, south of Steutz and east of Apollensdorf near Griebow were occupied as previously.

Little training activity on the river, including the construction of ferries and practice rides, were observed. At 12:20 p.m. on 8 September, a motor vehicle column, including buses, presumably of a head 50X1-HUM quarters, were seen en route to Rosslau, coming from the direction of Zerbst.

3. On 13 August, a column of about 100 engineer vehicles, mostly trucks, passed through Dessau, coming from the direction of Kuehnau.

4. Between 28 August and 15 September, the Pioneer Kaserne in Rosslau was occupied by about 1,000 to 1,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and tank insignia. On 1 and 10 September, exercises were held at the former engineer training site. The exercises involved about 800 troops, 12 T-34/85 tanks, 8 x 76.2-mm AT guns and 6 x 57-mm AT guns. Communication details and other details receiving instruction on range finders were seen on the road to Coswig during the period under review. Intensive drill was almost daily observed in the installation. Trucks seen en route to the installation

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5. On 4 September, Camp Brambach was occupied by about 800 to 1,000 troops. Two sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and two sentries, black-bordered black epaulets with engineer insignia. Marksmanship training with rifles was observed. Sedan [] and trucks [] were seen en route to the camp.¹ 50X1-HUM
6. On 12 September, sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia were seen near Camp Kuehnau. [] Truck [] was seen near the entrance.² 50X1-HUM
7. Between 2 and 15 September, the barracks installation in Kochstedt was occupied by an estimated 1,200 to 1,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Intensive training activity was repeatedly observed in the installation. On 11 September, 11 trucks towing 6 x 76.2-mm AA guns and 5 x 37-mm AA guns were seen leaving the installation. Motor vehicles [] were seen en route to and from the installation.⁴ 50X1-HUM
1. Comment. According to this and previous information, the following engineer units can be carried in the Dessau area in the Elbe River section between Coswig and Aken prior to early September: the 36th Pz Bridge Regt in the area southeast of Rosslau; the unidentified engineer regiment of the GORC and the 19th Indep Gds Engr Bn of the Eighth Gds Army in the area southwest of Dessau; and the 35th Engr Regt [] of the Third Gds Mecz Army, possibly in the Apollensdorf area. 50X1-HUM
2. Comment. [] a unit of the First Gds Mecz Army which is rather safely believed to have returned from the command post exercise in the Rathenow-Genthin area. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM
3. Comment. [] Elements of the 7th Gds Tank Div stationed there including the tank training battalion, were continually observed in their installation. 50X1-HUM
4. Comment. [] the installation is occupied as previously by elements of the 62d AAA Div [] 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

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